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APPLICATION NO. 09/258,129	FILING DATE 12/28/00	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR LAYNE H	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. F0375DT-US
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09/258,129
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EXAMINER CANFIELD, R

ART UNIT 3635	PAPER NUMBER 12
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DATE MAILED: 12/01/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action SummaryApplication No.
09/258,129Applicant(s)
LayneExaminer
Robert CanfieldGroup Art Unit
3635☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Sep 28, 2000☐ This action is **FINAL**.☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-9, 11-17, 19, 20, and 22-46 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-9, 11-17, 19, 20, and 22-46 is/are rejected.☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.**Application Papers**☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.☒ The proposed drawing correction, filed on Sep 18, 2000 is ☒ approved ☐ disapproved.☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.☒ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).**Attachment(s)**☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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1. The request filed on for an RCA filed 09/18/00 based on parent Application No 09/258129. is acceptable and a RCA has been established. An action on the RCA follows.
2. This Office action is in response to the supplemental amendment filed 09/28/00. Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-17, 19, 20, and 22-46 are pending. Claims 5, 10, 18 and 21 have been canceled by amendment.
3. The proposed drawing correction and/or the proposed substitute sheets of drawings, filed on 09/18/00 have been approved.
4. Claims 1-4, 25, 26, 28-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 251 as being an improper recapture of broadened claimed subject matter surrendered in the application for the patent upon which the present reissue is based. See *Hester Industries, Inc. v. Stein, Inc.*, 142 F.3d 1472, 46 USPQ2d 1641 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Clement*, 131 F.3d 1464, 45 USPQ2d 1161 (Fed. Cir. 1997); *Ball Corp. v. United States*, 729 F.2d 1429, 1436, 221 USPQ 289, 295 (Fed. Cir. 1984). A broadening aspect is present in the reissue which was not present in the application for patent. The record of the application for the patent shows that the broadening aspect (in the reissue) relates to subject matter that applicant previously surrendered during the prosecution of the application. Accordingly, the narrow scope of the claims in the patent was not an error within the

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meaning of 35 U.S.C. 251, and the broader scope surrendered in the application for the patent cannot be recaptured by the filing of the present reissue application.

The limitation "vertical" has been omitted in these claims before "spacer member(s)". The examiner included the limitation of "vertical" in his reasons for allowance. While the present examiner admits that each of the limitations in the previous examiner's reasons for allowance do not appear in each of the allowed claims, the limitation "vertical" does. Applicant did not present on the record a counter statement or comment as to the examiner's reason for allowance, and permitted the claims to issue. The omitted limitation is thus established as relating to subject matter previously surrendered.

5. The reissue oath/declaration filed with this application is defective (see 37 CFR 1.175 and MPEP § 1414) because of the following: defects or errors have been corrected in the reissue application after the filing of the application and last declaration.

6. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.175(b)(1), a supplemental reissue oath/declaration under 37 CFR 1.175(b)(1) must be received before this reissue application can be allowed.

Claims 1-3,5-9,19,20,22-46 are rejected as being based upon a defective declaration under 35 U.S.C. 251. See 37 CFR 1.175. The nature of the defect is set forth above.

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Receipt of an appropriate supplemental oath/declaration under 37 CFR 1.175(b)(1) will overcome this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 251. An example of acceptable language to be used in the supplemental oath/declaration is as follows:

"Every error in the patent which was corrected in the present reissue application, and is not covered by a prior oath/declaration submitted in this application, arose without any deceptive intention on the part of the applicant."

7. The original patent, or an affidavit or declaration as to loss or inaccessibility of the original patent, must be received before this reissue application can be allowed. See 37 CFR 1.178.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert Canfield whose telephone number is (703) 308-2482. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-3597.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.

Robert Canfield

November 29, 2000

Robert Canfield
Primary Examiner